BACKDROP—

Ray Attorneys Winning Battle Of Bias?

Co-counsel Mark Lane and former Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Charles [illegible] fell just short of being the dynamite duo in Criminal Court Thursday.

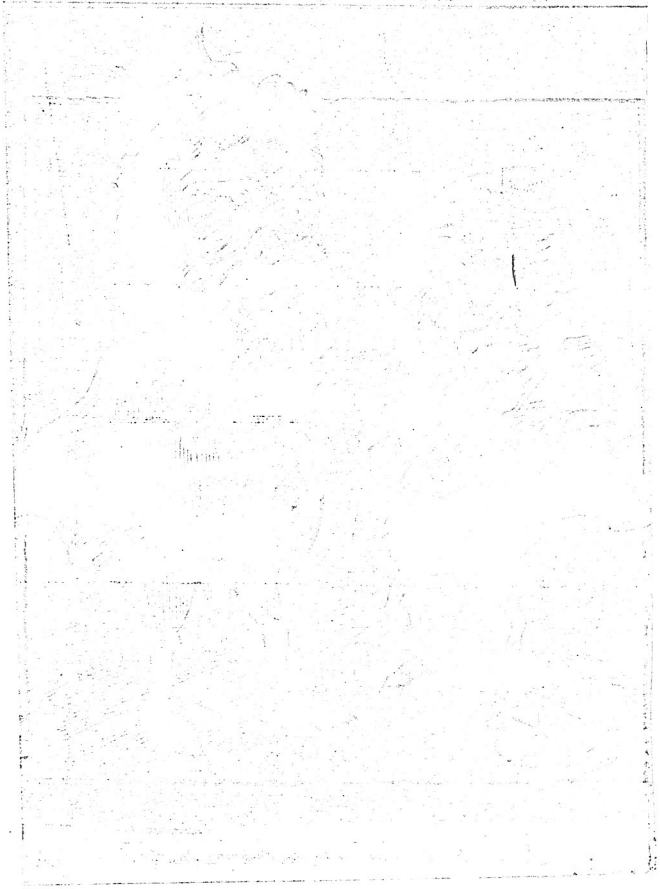
Appointed in the campaign to free James Earl Ray or to further muddy the tons of legal water over the dam, they succeeded in ejecting the staff of Atty. Gen. Hugh Stanton Jr. from the latest bout between Ray and the state.

Stanton briefly assisted his father, Hugh Stanton, as Ray's public-defender lawyer before Ray's 1969 guilty plea. It could have made him "privy to information detrimental to Ray," Lane successfully argued before Criminal Court Judge William H. Williams.

Prior to the hearing, Galbreath predicted Ray stands no chance in the Criminal Court effort. "I'd say the [illegible] to be won or lost on appeal. I don't [illegible]

case, the judge readily agreed.

The judge was then asked to remove himself from the case, since he was a member of the Judicial Standards Commission which recommended Galbreath's censure last year, partially because of Galbreath's Hustler-magazine endorsement of oral sex. Williams carefully declined, saying he has the "highest regard" for Galbreath and has considered himself a friend of the former judge over the years. For good measure, he added that Galbreath is an "outstanding attorney."

Any appellate judge pondering a new-trial motion based on Williams' "bias" would have to do a double take.

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